

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **ROUNDWOOD**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	20
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	12
Residential Areas	30	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	300	169

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the new format of the Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed questionnaire, comments and map together with your draft development plan. The adjudicators look forward to further improvements in the village over the coming years. There is a nice village atmosphere in Roundwood and you have some very interesting suggestions, for example, the effort to develop a Junior Tidy Towns Group and Litter Cadets is to be commended. It would also be good if you could develop a nature trail and open up access to the reservoir in some way, or at least provide information/interpretation. The adjudicators wish you well with your work programme.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

While there may be limited potential within the village itself, there is great potential for the development of wildlife all around you. Could you perhaps highlight accessibility and walks to reservoirs, wooded areas etc. It is nice to see Oak trees on the approach road from Ashford. Try to avoid the use of weed killer, e.g. in the car park area by the Roundwood Tavern. There are unlimited possibilities for the development of nature and wildlife areas and more amenities in the town - this can start at to open spaces right down through to development of nature walks down to the reservoir. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in your catchment area and see what species of animals, birds and fish these attract. Why not invite your local environmental experts and groups to get involved to advise you and provide you with the specialist information you require.

LANDSCAPING

There is limited evidence of landscaping works carried out this year; however, the adjudicators felt that more of an effort could be made under this heading. Work was being carried out on the grounds of the parish hall at time of adjudication; well done, with planting noted. Perhaps at time of adjudication the committee had not an opportunity to get out and carry out other works - this should be on-going and you should try to get more support from local residents and businesses. Where plant containers are being provided try to use natural sympathetic containers, i.e. not the plastic containers noted near the Garden Café. The entrance into the golf course will need to be landscaped in due course. The picnic area passed needs better maintenance. The space opposite the church was in need of attention. On the Newtownmountkennedy junction, there are nice features here. However, it does not seem to look inviting to sit down for a picnic - could it be enhanced perhaps through the use of flowers/trees?

Also, try to position seating where it would be practical and used, e.g. on the triangle on the approach from Sally Gap/Enniskerry does not seem practical - this area was badly maintained too at time of adjudication so there is scope here for further improvements. The grassed area on the approach road from Ashford on the left hand side was well maintained.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a mixed presentation under this category, but having said this there are many fine examples. The Health Centre was well presented with trees coming on quite nicely. The adjudicators would particularly like to commend the Church and its grounds which were excellent, as were, again this year The Roundwood Inn and Coach House. Well done. At Robbies Tavern, the flowers were in need of more attention but the entrance to the car park was well maintained. Both the National School and Modern School were also neat and tidy. Two particularly bad areas include the Resource Centre grounds and the Garden Café. You have the potential to create a very attractive village atmosphere but the presence of unsympathetic signage, e.g. Village Takeaway does not help this. Take a fresh approach in this regard and the efforts in your work programme should help you out here.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was excellent this year. Well done. It did not seem to be a problem throughout the village. The adjudicators would like to point out that if you do intend to purchase bins please try to put in sympathetic styles as it is hard enough to get them, let alone replace the ones that have been put in. The Main Street was litter free, as was the road leading out to the car park. Small amounts of litter were noted outside the school on the side road to Lough Dan.

TIDINESS

Overall, a positive impression was created in the village this year. Good performance in this section. Nice flower tubs were noted by Roundwood Stores. The area by St. Kevins could be improved. On the approach road from Ashford, the corrugated sheeting could be painted up; some weeds along by the kerbing were noted by the Resource Centre. A very neat appearance was generated between the Roundwood Inn and the Caravan Park (apart from the kerbing at the Resource Centre). One area that did take from the overall tidiness is the on-going problem with the Garden Café on the approach from Annamoe.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Good individual efforts were noted throughout Roundwood in this category. Wayside Cottage was very well presented, well done. The second house on the right hand side on the approach road from Enniskerry road was also looking very well on day of adjudication. The house on the corner near the Church was also well presented and good efforts were also noted on the approach road and on the Main Street. Within the residential park, some tree planting would be beneficial, some perimeter fencing/walls could be improved and replace the lampshade on the public light. There is room for improvement here through the efforts of the Residents Association and children.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approaching Roundwood from Annamoe, the initial impression at the nameplate is not good, with gorse and long grass noted grass verges had not been cut except in towards the 30 MPH sign. The entrance to the GAA was also quite bad. The Dublin sign should be replaced. The Garden Café does take from the overall appearance. On the Main Street, it was very neat and tidy. The approach road from Enniskerry, was quite disappointing. The verges had not been cut back and the triangle area with the flower beds was overgrown - this did not leave a positive impression. The approach road from Ashford was much better with the cut grass noted on the left hand side and picnic area to the right. The new development of the golf course is noted , the entrance should be landscaped for next year.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression was that the village of Roundwood looked quite well this year. There is a challenge for the local Tidy Towns Committee in conjunction with the local residents, local authority and business interests to make it more inviting for visitors in order to get them to bring some economic benefits to the village. The challenge is there for you to do that. It is important that you maintain the village atmosphere. There is a need for more evidence of work and improvements to the village. It is a very tidy town but more efforts are needed in bringing forward individual projects